GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1953
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21ST MARCH, 2022

DELAYS IN RECRUITMENT

1953. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:
SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:
SMT. CHHAYA VERMA:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the number of recruitment in defence sector which could not be initiated during COVID-19 period, due to which the youth could not get an opportunity to join defence services;

(b) whether any study has been conducted to find out the number of youth desirous of joining defence services but have crossed the upper age limit during the last three years as recruitments were not being conducted; and

(c) whether Government would propose to provide an opportunity by relaxing the rules to the youth who have crossed upper age-limit during the last three years but are desirous of joining defence services?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE (SHRI AJAY BHATT)
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(a): **Indian Army:**

All Recruitment Rallies planned by Army Recruiting Offices (AROs)/Zonal Recruiting Offices (ZROs) have been suspended till further orders due to the prevailing COVID-19 situation in the country. The details of recruitment rallies for the Recruiting Year 2020-21 & 2021-22 are as under:-

(i) 97 Recruitment Rallies were planned in the Recruiting Year 2020-21, out of which only 47 rallies could be conducted. Out of the 47 recruitment rallies, Common Entrance Exam (CEE) for only four rallies could be conducted before suspension of recruiting activities.

(ii) 87 recruitment rallies were planned in the Recruiting Year 2021-22, out of which only four Rallies have been conducted so far and no CEE could be conducted.

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Indian Navy:

Indian Navy has been undertaking induction of officers and recruitment of sailors twice every year to fill up vacancies. During the year 2020, recruitment of sailors was undertaken only once, as a result of lockdown and travel restrictions imposed by COVID-19 pandemic.

Indian Air Force:

Officers:

There was no stoppage in the conduct of Officers' selection process and induction during COVID-19 period.

Airmen:

(i) Scheduled Test for Airmen Recruitment (STAR) 01/2020 scheduled from 19 -23 March, 2020 Pan India was postponed at the last moment due to COVID-19 pandemic as countrywide restrictions were imposed by the Government. However, the exam was finally conducted following COVID-19 restrictions and protocols from 04-08 November, 2020.

(ii) STAR 02/2020 planned in September, 2020 was cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic. However, a total of 11 recruitment rallies were conducted following COVID-19 restrictions and protocols to cater for the intake strength for the course commencing from March 2021.

(iii) STAR 01/2021 scheduled to be conducted Pan India from 18-24 April, 2021 was cancelled due to unexpected surge in second wave of COVID-19 cases across the country. The exam was successfully conducted following COVID-19 restrictions and protocols from 12-18 July, 2021.

(b): No such study has been conducted. However, the eligibility age for joining the Indian Armed Forces provide adequate number of chances for recruitment in various categories.

(c): No such proposal has been considered by the Indian Army and Indian Air Force. However, the Indian Navy has granted one time age relaxation of six months to candidates in the recruitment cycle for the first batch of the year 2021 in the aftermath of COVID-19 as a special case.

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